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Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 EA-06 NEA-06 ISO-00 MC-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 EB-04 COME-00 NASA-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00

RSC-01 L-01 /044 W
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R 251545Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3572
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS PARIS 25294

DEPT FOR OES/SCI/SAM, PASS NASA

E.O. 11652 : N/A
TAGS: TSPA, FR, IN
SUBJECT: SALE OF ROCKET ENGINE LICENSE TO INDIA

SUMMARY: FRENCH FIRM SEP SOLD TO INDIAN ORGANIZATION FOR SPACE RESEARCH THE LICENSE TO MANUFACTURE THE ROCKET ENGINE, VIKING, WHICH THE FRENCH DEVELOPED TO POWER THE FIRST TWO STAGES OF THE ARIANE SPACE LAUNCHER. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SOCIETE EUROPEENE DE PROPULSION (SEP), A FRENCH FIRM, HAS SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH THE INDIAN ORGANIZATION FOR SPACE RESEARCH (ISRO), PROVIDING THE INDIANS THE LICENSE TO MANUFACTURE THE VIKING ENGINE, A LIQUID FUELED (UDMH/N2 02) ROCKET WITH A 60-TON THRUST. THE FRENCH PLAN TO USE FOUR VIKING ENGINES TO POWER THE FIRST STAGE OF THEIR ARIANE SPACE LAUNCHER AND A SINGLE VIKING ENGINE ADAPTED FOR HIGH ALTITUDES FOR THE SECOND STAGE.

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2. ACCORDING TO FRENCH AEROSPACE TRADE JOURNAL, THE

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SIMPLICITY OF THE VIKING ENGINE APPEALED TO INDIA,
WHICH WANTS TO ACQUIRE SPACE TECHNOLOGY RAPIDLY. ITS
AMBITION IS TO DEVELOP BY 1983 OR 1984 AN INDIAN
"ARIANE", THESLV-3 , CAPABLE OF PLACING TELECOMMUNICA-
TIONS SATELLITES WEIGHING UP TO 800 KG IN GEOSTATIONARY
ORBIT. THE JOURNAL CONTINUES THAT ONERA, THE FRENCH
AEROSPACE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION, WHICH MADE THE ARIANE
STUDIES, HAS BEEN SOLLICITED TO PERFORM THE SAME
SERVICE FOR THE SLV-3. THE INDIANS PLAN TO USE THE
VIKING FOR THE FIRST TWO STAGES OF THE SLV-3. THEY
HAVE NOT YET DECIDED ON A THIRD STAGE DEFINITION. THE
JOURNAL SPECULATES THAT THE FRENCH COULD HOPE TO SELL
INDIA THE LICENSE FOR THEIR CRYOGENIC ENGINE HM-7,
ALSO BUILT BY SEP, OR EVEN THE ENTIRE THIRD STAGE. THE
FRENCH, IT CONCLUDES, HAVE ALREADY SOLD THE HM-7
LICENSE TO JAPAN.
3. COMMENT: MFA SPACE AFFAIRS DIRECTOR LOUET CONFIRM-
ED TO SCIATT THE SALE OF THE VIKING LICENSE TO INDIA.
HE SAID THAT SEP HAD CLEARED THE PROPOSED SALE WITH
ITS "MINISTERE DE TUTELLE": THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE,
WITH WHOM IT HAS BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED. SEP, FOR
EXAMPLE, BUILDS SOLID PROPELLENT ROCKETS FOR BALLISTIC
MISSILES AND FOR THE PLUTON MISSILE. ISRO ALSO
PARTICIPATES WITH THE FRENCH SPACE AGENCY (CNES) IN
AN APPARENTLY SMALL COOPERATION PROGRAM ADMINISTERED
BY A MIXED CNES-ISRO COMMISSION.
STONE

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